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masamune shirow's

ORION

DARK HORSE COMICS

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STUDIO PROTEUS

SEISHINSHA

Scanned by ZileH-HeltZ
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Hmm
MAYBE I HAVEN'T DESTROYED ENOUGH STUFF.
WAIT, NO, SID-I THINK THIS IS QUITE ENOUGH OH heh
YOU KNOW, IF YOU'D SUMMONED ME IN TAKAMAGAHARA MODE INSTEAD OF IZUMO MODE, I WOULD HAVE REDUCED THE WHOLE PLANET TO YINERONS AND YANGERONS!
Heh... LUCKY ME...
I, er, WOULDN'T SUGGEST REDUCING THINGS TOO MUCH AFTER ALL, THEN THERE WOULDN'T BE ANYTHING LEFT TO WRECK...
heh heh heh
UNFORTUNATELY, EVEN I CAN'T DESTROY YINERONS AND YANGERONS
THE OTHER GODS OUT THERE ARE HOLDING THEM ALL TOGETHER, SO WE'LL NEVER GET TO TRUE NOTHINGNESS...
EH?
WHILE THINGS ARE IN A STATE OF NOTHINGNESS, THERE'S NO TIME, EITHER, SO THE RESULT IS A CYCLE OF CREATION AND EXTINCTION
NOTHINGNESS
CREATION
CHANGE
EXTINCTION
NOTHINGNESS
THE "YANGERONS" REFERRED TO HERE ARE NOT WHAT WE A "PROTONS" THEY ARE THE ULTIMATE YANG ELEMENTS (SAY WHAT?)

IN THE FIRST STAGE OF CREATION, THERE WAS YIN AND YANG
VACUUM POLARIZATION?
THE VERY BEGIN-NING?
RIGHT. BEFORE THAT, EVEN NOTHING-NESS DID NOT EXIST--
--THERE WAS A VIRTUAL VACUUM WITHOUT TIME OR MEANING. BUT THERE WAS YIN AND YANG
WHEN EXISTENCE CAME INTO BEING, "NOTHING-NESS" AND "TIME" BEGAN. NOTHING-NESS WAS NEGA-TIVE.
TIME AND EXISTENCE POLARIZED INTO YIN AND YANG, AND THE FOUR PHENOMENA EMERGED
y
YANG
x
x
YIN
-y
SEEKING FURTHER STABILITY, THIS DEVELOPED INTO THE EIGHT TRIGRAMS; WHICH DOUBLED AGAIN INTO 16, 32, 64, AND SO ON...TO MAKE UP OUR CURRENT MATERIAL WORLD
THIS FORM FACTOR IS THE MOST BASIC WAY TO REPRESENT THE STRUCTURE OF THE UNIVERSE

IF WE TAKE THIS REPRESENTATION AND TRANSFORM IT WITH A LITTLE OCTOTRIGRA-MOLOGY, IT APPEARS LIKE THIS
LOOK FAMILIAR ?
WELL ?
IN OTHER WORDS, FUZEN, THE ART OF THE NINE-HEADED NAGA IS A SUBSET OF OCTOTRI-GRAM-OLOGY
IT DIVIDES ALL EXISTENCE OTHER THAN KARMA ITSELF INTO EIGHT PRIMAL ELEMENTS
HEY!! THIS IS IDENTICAL TO THE NINE-HEADED NAGA DHARMAQUATION !!
THE OCTOTRIGRA-MOLOGY MUST HAVE SCRAMBLED THIS GUY'S CHAKRAS ...

BUT BECAUSE THE NINTH PRIMAL ELEMENT OF THE NINE-HEADED NAGA IS POINTED AT HEAVEN IN ORDER TO COLLECT NEGATIVE KARMA, THE EQUATION (UNLIKE THE OCTOTRIGRAM) SPINS CLOCK-WISE.
HEY! AREN'T YOU ONE OF THOSE TENDAI PRIESTS?
AND BECAUSE OF THAT, LOOK HERE--
PRIESTS ARE SUPPOSED TO SERVE AND PROTECT THE PEOPLE!
WELL, JUST LOOK AT THE MESS YOU'VE MADE! WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO ABOUT IT, eh?!
--SO WHEN THE SPIN IS REVERSED, THE AZIMUTHS ARE INVERTED, AND EVERYTHING ASSUMES A NEGA-TIVE ENERGY-- HEY! AREN'T YOU LISTENING TO ME?!
WHEN THE SPIN VECTOR IS INVERTED, EXISTENCE REVERSES AND TIME IS NOT REVERSIBLE. PAST AND FUTURE ARE ASYMMETRICAL.
Ah, GRACIOUS DEITY! PLEASE FOR-GIVE ME, FOR I CANNOT IGNORE THE SUFFERING MASSES!
LISTEN-- WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?!
ACK!
BOMF

FREE AT LAST!
SO, AS I WAS SAYING- IT'S ACTIVATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NEGATIVE FORCE, OR NOTHING-NESS. SO THERE ARE BASICALLY THREE PROBLEMS ...
WAAAH! WAAAH! MOMMY!!
THE FIRST IS THE PERSON WHO DESIGNED THE NINE-HEADED NAGA FORMULA
HE'S PROBABLY A FAIRLY ADVANCED FORCE, HIM-SELF
MOMMY! MOMMY! WAAH!
SHADDUP!!!
URK!
BOOOMF
FREE AT LAST! YAY!
THE SECOND IS THAT THE TENTH ELEMENT, WHICH SHOULD BE IN CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NINTH, IS "EMPTY." THIS ACTUALLY CREATES A PRIMAL ELEMENT THAT EMITS NEGATIVE KARMA.
...AND THIS GROWS IN PROPORTION TO THE AMOUNT OF NEGATIVE KARMA THAT THE SYSTEM COLLECTS. REDUCING IT WOULD TURN IT INTO A HARD-TO-HANDLE MALEVOLENT ENTITY...
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?

ANYWAY, BECAUSE OF THAT, THE NINE-HEADED NAGA TECHNIQUE · WHICH SHOULD BE COMPOSED OF TEN ELEMENTS · · MERELY BECOMES A LENS THAT MAGNIFIES NEGATIVE KARMA
S
NINTH ELEMENT
SUBSET OF OCTOTHIGRAM
TENTH ELEMENT/ MALEVOLENT ENTITY
N
IF THIS HAD BEEN CREATED BY A NAGA-FORCE, IT WOULD DEFINITELY BE HARMFUL TO PEOPLE, BUT IT LACKS ENOUGH OF A SENSE OF "SELF" FOR A SINGLE NAGA
THEN THERE'S THE THIRD PROBLEM --THE SACRIFICE..
IF SOMEONE'S EYES, EARS AND ARMS WERE TRANSPLANTED TO THE NINE-HEADED NAGA, IT WOULD BE TRANSFORMED FROM A MERELY STRUCTURAL ELEMENT TO A TRULY ACTIVE, MALEVOLENT DRAGON
Uh HOW DO WE PREVENT THAT?
ONCE THE EQUATION IS ACTIVATED, THE NAGA-FORM IS NO LONGER NEEDED ...
ONE COULD EITHER SEPARATE THE SACRIFICE FROM THE DRAGON, OR PERHAPS REMOVE THE NINTH PRIMAL ELEMENT FROM THE EQUATION BEFORE THE MALEVOLENT DEITY IS CREATED...
Hm?
FZZZKK

TH-TH-THE NINTH ELEMENT OF THE EQUATION IS--
GO NE!!
HYAAA
KH-WAM
BKROOOMMM

GOOD THING WE ALWAYS GO TO CHURCH. WE'RE HARDLY EVER AFFECTED BY THESE DISASTERS ...
YEAH, OTHERS ARE HAVING A HELL OF A TIME ...
ehehehehe
AHAHAHAHA
KRAMBB
YEEK !?
BRAMBBRAMBBRAMBBRAMB
M-MY GOD! WHAT HAPPENED!
CURSES!!
SO THAT MEANS THE REAL ONE IS ACTIVE SOMEWHERE?!
RIGHT IT MUST BE THE ONE I SPAT OUT EARLIER!
THE TENTH ELEMENT HAS BEEN ACTIVATED SOMEWHERE!
EARLIER, WHILE I WAS DISTRACTED BY THAT STINKING APE, I MUST HAVE ACCIDENTALLY PUT THE INACTIVATOR SPELL ON THE FAKE EQUATION!

GODDAMN IT! THAT REALLY HACKS ME OFF!!
BOOT
KYAK!
THE EQUATION YOU GOT RID OF SURELY THAT WASN'T THE ONE MY DAUGHTER WAS..
SHE'S NOT YOUR DAUGHTER ANYMORE.. SHE'S THE MALEVOLENT DEITY OF THE TENTH ELEMENT NOW!
OHHH NO...
I'VE GOT NO CHOICE.. I'LL HAVE TO FIND THE SACRIFICE AND PUT AN INACTIVATOR HARMONIC ON IT...
YOU MEAN LIKE PUTTING OUT POISONED BAIT?
BOT
YOW!
STOP YAWPING AT ME ALL THE TIME, FUZEN!
NO, NO, I DIDN'T MEAN TO..
JUST SHADDUP!

HEY YOU BEEN FOOLIN' WITH MY PSYCHOMO-METER ?
DUNNO WHAT YER TALKIN ABOUT ..
LOOK-- TH NEEDLE'S ALLAWAY INTA TH RED .
NO KIDDIN' ...
OH BOY, LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GONNA GET TER EAT REAL FRESH FILTH NOW, INSTEAD'A THAT METALLIC-TASTING STUFF...
NYAW HAW HEE HEE
AYE, SUCH A CLEVER, TALENTED SON Y'ARE!
GYGSH
YUM YUM
HMN?
KYAA!!
SUUPP

WHR-AM!
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
P-PLEASE FORGIVE US!
SHE BROKE 'ER CHAINS.. AND THEY WERE PURE SANCTO-STEEL!
?!
WHAT ON EARTH WERE YER TRYIN' TER DO, HROT?! WHY YER GOOD-FER-NOTHIN' LI'L--
SMAK SMAK YAP
EEYE!
I BROKE CHAINS OF SANCTO-STEEL?
BUT HOW COULD I?

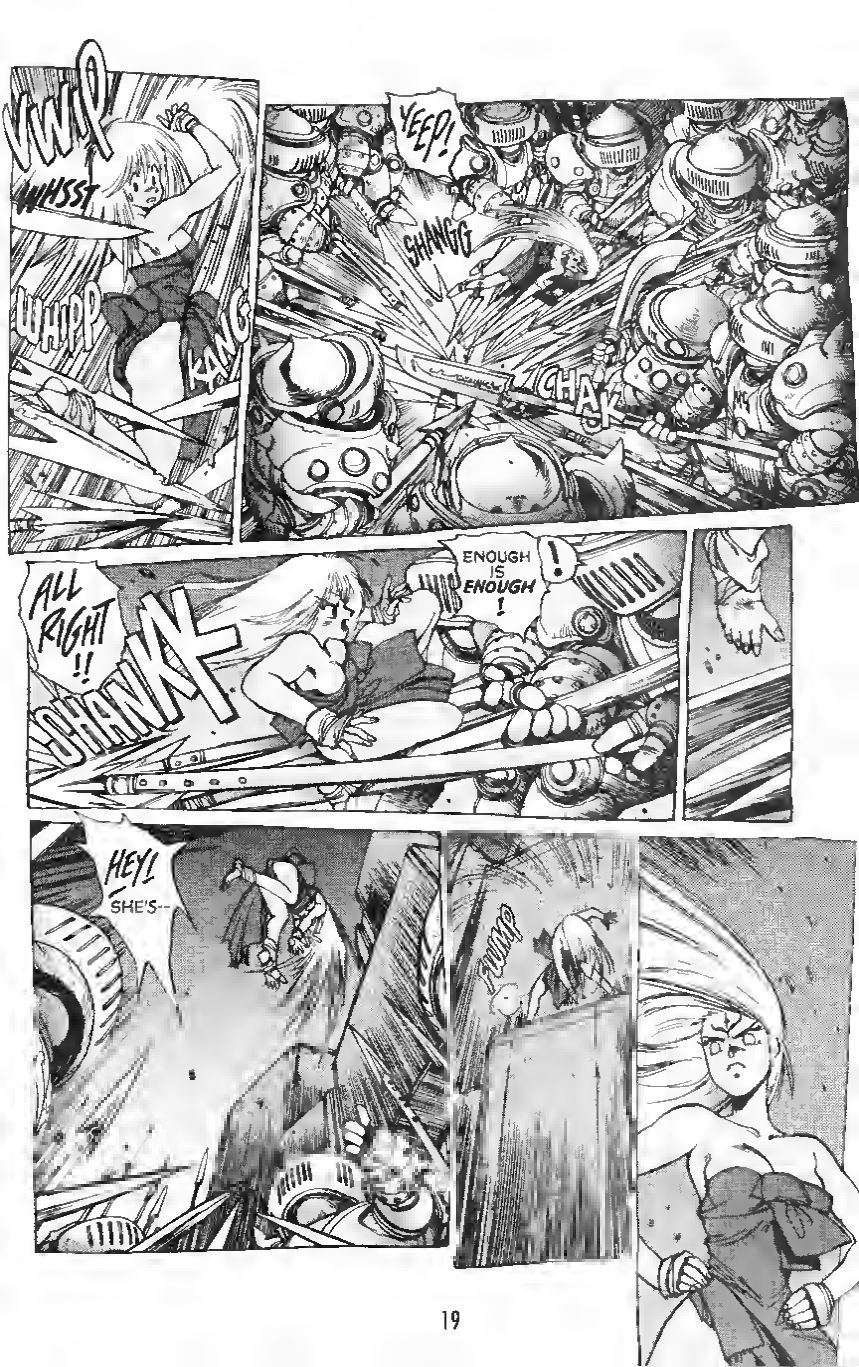
HEY, YOU-- WHERE AM I?
um, AT TH' BOTTOM A' LAKE KUS
LAKE KUS ?
Hmm THAT'S IN THE MIDDLE OF THE KUMASO TENDAI PLAIN...
MAYBE THAT'S WHY I SEEM TO BE ATTRACTING SOME SORT OF COSMIC FORCE ..
NOW I RE-MEM-BER !
I WAS GOING TO MEET THE EMPEROR, CLEAR UP THIS MESS, AND THEN GET BACK AT SUSANO !!
EASY! BET I COULD TELEPORT THROUGH TO SOKOKU PALACE IN ONE LEAP!
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I SEEM TO HAVE MORE STRENGTH THAN EVER. MAYBE I OUGHTA TRY LEVITATING-- IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.
Hmm

SKRASSH
SOME-THING JUST SLAMMED INTO THE PERIMETER GATE!
MAYBE IT WAS THAT SUSANO GUY!!
SOME-BODY TELL DR HEBIME!
KOFF HACK
MY WORST LANDING EVER! USUALLY I CAN COME IN A LITTLE SOFTER THAN THIS

KRAK
SOKOKU PALACE
ADMISSION
ADULTS $15.00
CHILDREN $10.00
SENIORS $5.00
SOKOKU PALACE!
WOW! I REALLY DID MAKE IT HERE IN ONE LEAP!
HEY, CHECK IT OUT-- A BLACK SNAKE!
EEEK!! A SNAKE?! WHERE?!
YIKE!

KSHANGG
Oh MY ...
HEE
YAHH
WHR-
-AMM
GYAK!
HOW DARE YOU CALL ME A SNAKE!
I AM SESKA FUZE, ACTING HEAD OF THE FUZE CLAN!
AND I DEMAND AN AUDIENCE WITH THE EMPEROR, NOW!

SESKA OF THE FUZE CLAN?! THERE'S A WARRANT OUT FOR HER! WITH A REWARD OF 200,000 GOLD DROGS!
WHAT?!
CHARGE!!
RMBB
RMBB
RMBB
200,000 DROGS?!!
NOW JUST HOLD ON A SECOND. HERE I CAME TO TELL THE EMPEROR THERE'S BEEN A MISTAKE!
EEEK!
WH-!!
WHSSHHT


WHIP
WHSST
WHIPP
KANG
YEEP!
SHANGG
CHAK
ALL RIGHT !!
SHANK
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH !
HEY!
SHE'S--
WHIP

YA HA HA HA
FOOLS! ALL YOUR DHARMA SEALS AND AMPS CAN'T TOUCH ME!
I THINK
SO BACK OFF!!
HO HO HO
LISTEN! I AM GONZALEZ, CAPTAIN OF THE IMPERIAL GUARD!
AND I CHALLENGE YOU TO A FAIR FIGHT! I'M NOT DOING THIS FOR THE REWARD, EITHER!
ARROGANT SWINE! I'LL TURN YOU INTO AN EATER-OF-FILTH!
HOLY COW!
BkOOMPHHH
HE TURNED INTO AN OCTO-POT!
GIARK!
I'M... AN OCTO-POT?!
ACK! GAG! BARF!

I WANT A PASS THAT GETS ME THROUGH ALL THE SPELL BARRIERS IN THE PALACE! NOW!
IF NOT-- I'LL TEAR THE PLACE APART!
DR. HEBIME!!
IS THAT FUZEN'S IDIOT DAUGHTER?!
YAY! GET HER!!
GO GO HE-BI-ME!
WAIT A SEC! THAT MEANS HE'LL GET THE REWARD!
WHSF
WHAT TH-?!
WHAT TH-?!

FORWARD, MEN! HEBIME'S CORNERED SOME BANDIT BY THE WEST GATE! WE'VE GOT TO BACK HIM UP!
RMBBRMBB!
EZZ4
BROOM
Hm. Oh!
A BRILLIANT IDEA, LORD SUSANO! A DECOY AT THE MAIN GATE SO WE CAN SNEAK IN THROUGH THE BACK!
RMB
RMB
RMBB
NOT MY IDEA, IGNORAMUS!
Hmm.. THAT'S ODD I JUST FELT A STRANGE FLOW OF ENERGY BETWEEN THE NINTH AND TENTH ELEMENTS
RMBB
RM
WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T LET ANYONE SEE THAT HAIRY FACE OF YOURS! AND BE PREPARED-- THE INNER PALACE IS A DIFFERENT WORLD OF SORCERY, RULED BY PURE YIN.
IS THE SACRIFICE YOU NEED REALLY HERE?
YOU CAN'T MAKE A SACRIFICE FOR SORCERY THIS POWERFUL OVERNIGHT. TAKES TIME, AND CAREFUL MANAGEMENT
IT'S GOTTA BE HERE!

HNNGRRRRGGH!
SO THAT DAMNED HEBIME TRIED TO GIVE A SILK ROBE TO OUR WRETCHED SACRIFICE, KUSHINATA...
OF ALL THE FILTHY, INTOLERABLE IMPUDENCE!!
P-PLEASE CALM YOURSELF, MAJESTY! THINK OF YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE...!
WHO DARES TO INTERRUPT ME?! RIP HER TONGUE OUT AND SEW HER MOUTH SHUT!
H-H-HAVE MERCY, YOUR MAJESTY!
Hmph... IF YOU SLIP SOME NEEDLES IN PRINCESS KUSHINATA'S DINNER TONIGHT, I JUST MIGHT FORGIVE YOU!
S-SURELY YOU SPEAK IN J-JEST, MAJESTY?!
BRING ME SOME RED-HOT TONGS AND A SEWIN KIT!
SMAK SMAK
I'LL DO IT! W-W-WHATEVER YOU SAY, MAJESTY!
Waaaaahh
PL...PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
Sniff
WHY SUCH HASTE, YOUR MAJESTY? THE NINE-HEADED NAGA WILL SOON BE ACTIVATED!
THEN SACRIFICES WON'T BE NEEDED! AND THEN...
eee hee hee

GLORIOUS PRINCESS KUSHINATA! I BRING YOU A GIFT OF CLOTHES FROM DR HEBIME!
PLEASE ENTER
MMM
MMRMBB
I WILL JOIN YOU IN A FEW MOMENTS...

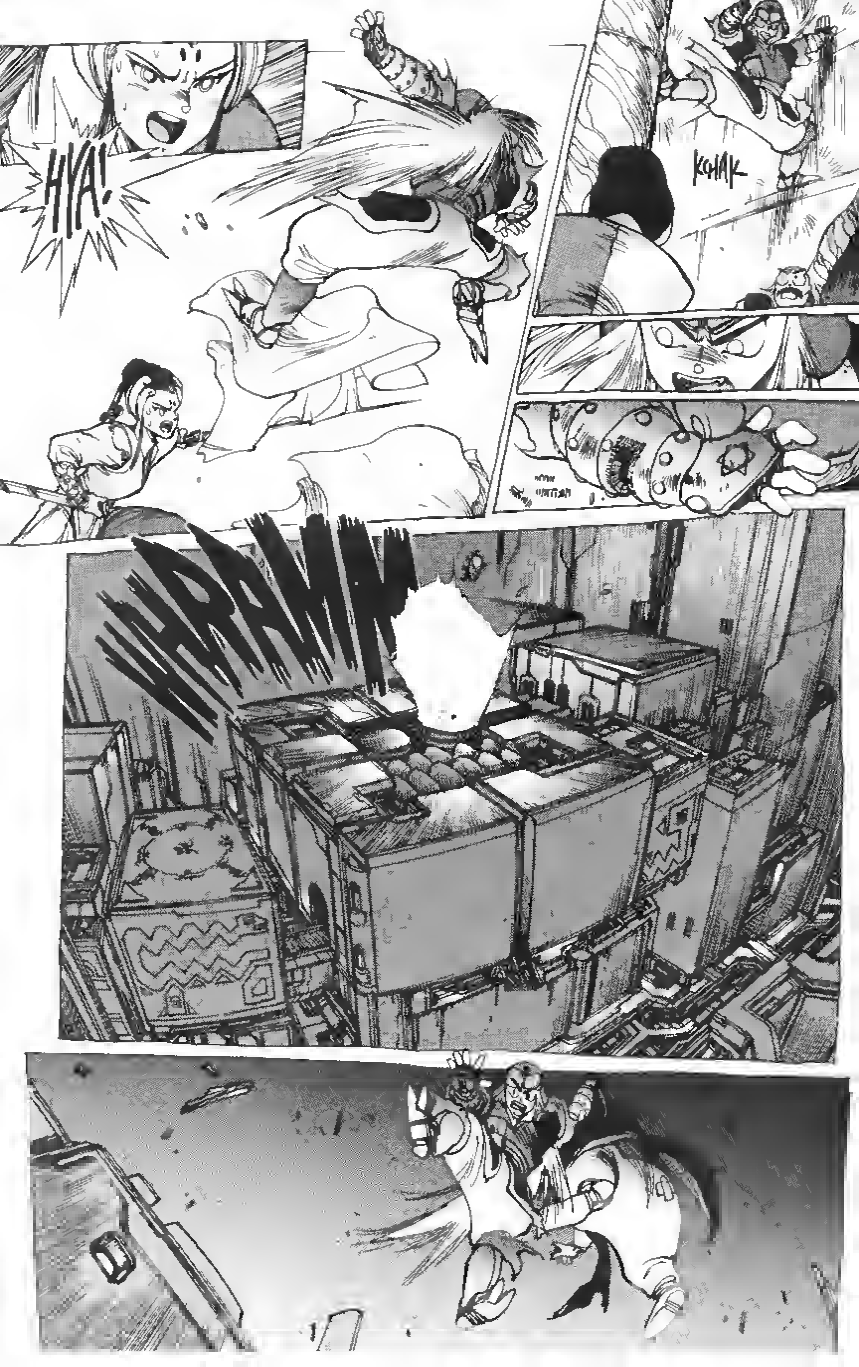
THANK YOU FOR WAITING
Ah... uhmm... H-HERE THEY ARE.
THANK YOU SO MUCH
THE SOULS OF ALL THOSE WHO GAZE AT THE PRINCESS ARE EXPOSED!
LADY SAKURA ! LADY UME !
AGAIN ...?
S-SORRY, MY LADY ...
SO I SHOULD INFORM THE COURT THAT, ONCE MORE, THERE WERE NEEDLES IN THE PRINCESS'S MEAL, YES?
I'M AFRAID SO, MY LADY... PLEASE FORGIVE ME!

Ahh THE CORRUP TION OF THE FLOATING WORLD
AS ALWAYS HIGH- NESS ...
WHAT IS IT, SAKURA ?
QUICKLY, HIGHNESS! STEP INTO THE PROTECTIVE DHARMA CIRCLE!
THUK

OW!
OW!
SHADDUP!
I'M TRYING TO CONCEN TRATE!
THEY'VE SET SOME POWER-FUL ANTI-DHARMA MASTER SPELLS IN HERE...
ANYONE WHO LOOKS DIRECTLY AT THEM WILL BE STOPPED IN THEIR TRACTS--AND THEY'LL LOSE THEIR MINDS!
VROOOOSHH
HAH!
VROOSH
VROOSH
VROOSH
TAKE THAT!
FRAK
FRAKK
FRAGMENTATION
I'LL RE-MATERIALIZE EVERYTHING, AND WE'LL BE FINE!
FRAK
NOT A BAD DEFENSE SYSTEM, THOUGH! THESE PSYCHO-SCIENCE WEAPONS ARE BETTER THAN I THOUGHT!

SHIK
Er I THINK MY POSTERIOR'S BEEN VIOLATED ...
EEE YOWW
WASN'T ME! I HAVE NO INTEREST IN SUCH ACTIVITIES!
NO, NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!
THEN QUIT YOUR MEANINGLESS BABBLE!
GET BACK!
SHAK
GAH!!
WHAK
WHAK
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
SOMETHING PIERCED MY PROTECTIVE SPELL!
SHIK

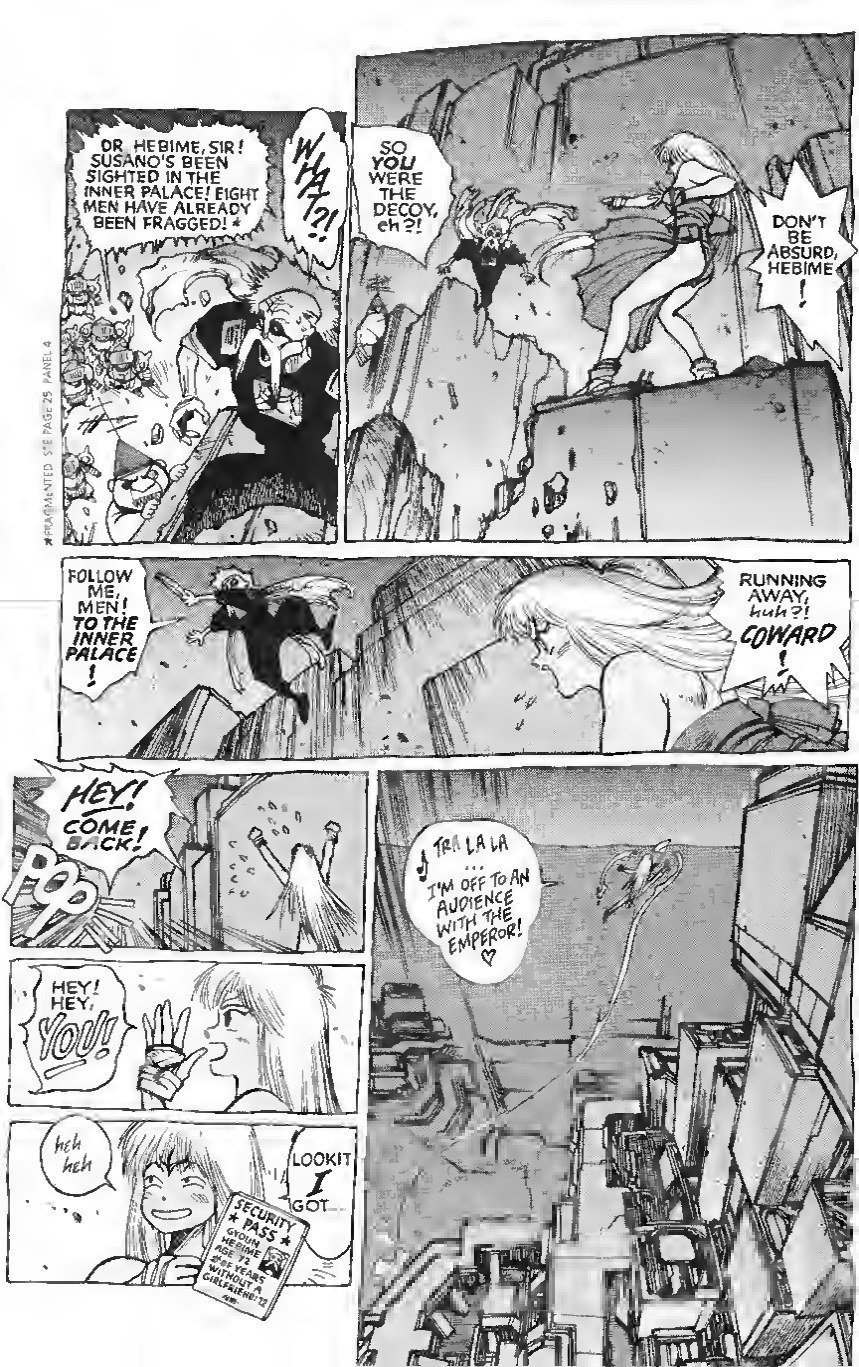
!
WHA --?!
LORD SUSANO, BE CAREFUL! SHE'S CARRYING A SANCTO-STEEL SWORD THAT CAN CUT THROUGH PROTECTIVE SPELLS!!
QUICK CHANGE OF PLANS!!
Uh-oh! BIG TROUBLE!
CURSES! I CAN'T DRAW MY SWORD!


HYA!
KCHAK
WHAM!

YE GODS! THIS IS FAR MORE POWERFUL SORCERY THAN I HAD THOUGHT!
LORD SUSANO! WHAT WAS THAT FORCE?
THE SACRIFICE!
AND NO ORDINARY ONE, AT THAT!
SHE'S A SEMI-DEITY WITH CRYSTALLINE VISION, AND KANNON* POWERS MORE THAN I CAN HANDLE!
WITH THAT KIND OF POWER, THE NINE-HEADED NAGA WILL TURN INTO A SUPER-MONSTER CAPABLE OF TAKING ON NOT ONLY THE EMPIRE, BUT A WHOLE ARMY OF GODS LIKE ME!
* ONE OF THE TWO BODHISATTVAS ATTENDING THE AMIDA BUDDHA
THUK
IN THE TRUE WAY OF THE WARRIOR, IT SHOULD NOT EVEN BE NECESSARY TO UNSHEATH ONE'S SWORD...
BUT I COULD NOT EVEN FIND A CHINK IN HIS PSYCHE.
I... I CAN-NOT DEFEAT HIM ...
SAKURA!
I'M... ALL RIGHT
PERHAPS IT'S TIME FOR US TO ABANDON OUR OATHS AND USE OUR SACRED PSYCHO-SWORDS
AAA!
SHSSHH

BY THE GODS! A MONSTER!
UME! USE YOUR SWORD ON HIM!
WHSSH
PRINCESS KUSHINATA --SUCH A STRANGE NAME
FWSSHH
?!
O WARRIOR GOD SUSANO.. WHY DO YOU DISRUPT OUR SACRED WEAVERY?
BECAUSE IT'S WEAVING A MONSTER NAGA. THAT'S WHY!
WHY ARE YOU SACRIFICING YOURSELF, PRINCESS?!
I WILL GIVE MYSELF TO THE NAGA REACTOR AND BECOME ONE WITH IT, SO IT CAN INCINERATE THE EVIL KARMA MANKIND HAS CREATED, AND SO PURIFY THE WORLD..
RIGHT! WITH SUCH A WONDERFUL PERSON SACRIFICING HERSELF, HOW DARE ANY "WARRIOR GOD" INTERFERE!!
THE REACTOR INTERFACES BETWEEN WORLDS! THE MORE PURITY INSIDE, THE GREATER THE CORRUPTION OUTSIDE, PRINCESS! THE DHARMAQUATION MUST BE RESET!!

THERE'S AN INTRUDER ABOVE THE INNER PALACE !!!
CHANGE ELEVATION !
VREE
EEK
SET SPELL !
KLK KLK KLK
SHRIEK
LORD SUSANO! THEY'RE FIRING GURKA* GUARDS AT US! EACH ONE'S GOT A PSYCH LEVEL OF TEN THOUSAND AND A HARMONIC LEVEL OF ONE
THAT MEANS IF ALL THE GUARDS IN THE PALACE CONVERGE, THEIR AGGREGATE LEVEL WOULD BE, uh, LESSEE ..
NOTE AT 3:14 TO THE GURKHA WHO INVENTED KUKRI KNIVES
SHREEE KREEEAGHH
THAT'S EASY-- IN A SECOND IT'LL BE ZERO!
YUCK. THEY'RE EVEN UGLIER THAN ME.
VRISS
SSS
VSS
VRISS
VRISS VRISS
VSS


DR. HEBIME, SIR! SUSANO'S BEEN SIGHTED IN THE INNER PALACE! EIGHT MEN HAVE ALREADY BEEN FRAGGED!
WHAT?!
SO YOU WERE THE DECOY, eh?!
DON'T BE ABSURD, HEBIME!
FOLLOW ME, MEN! TO THE INNER PALACE!
RUNNING AWAY, huh?! COWARD!
HEY! COME BACK!
TRA LA LA ... I'M OFF TO AN AUDIENCE WITH THE EMPEROR!
HEY! HEY, YOU!
heh heh
LOOKIT I GOT...
SECURITY PASS
GHOUN HEBIME AGE 1/2 ONE YEARS WITHOUT A GIRLFRIEND
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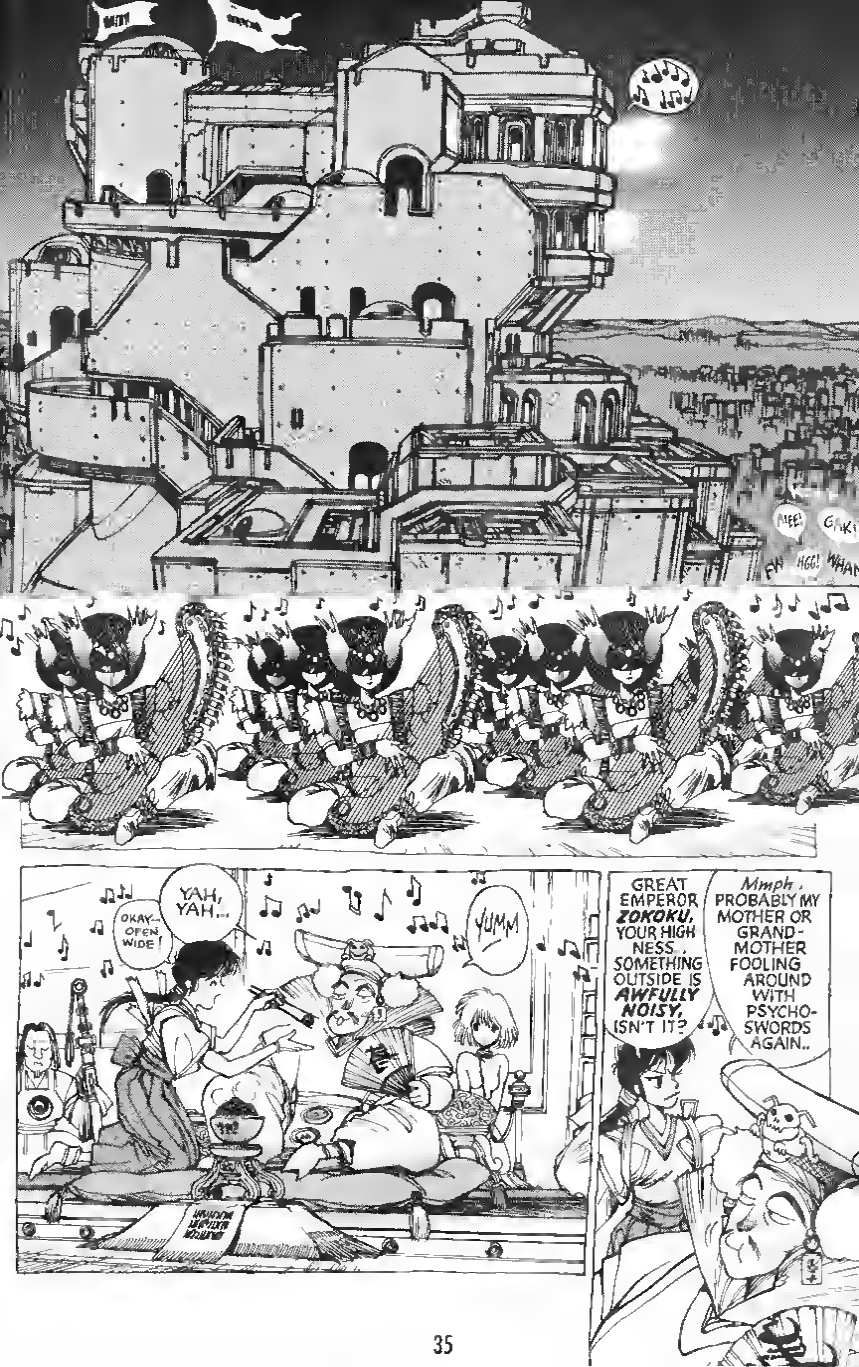
MEE!
GAK!
EH
HGG!
WHAT
YAH, YAH...
OKAY— OPEN WIDE!
YUMM
GREAT EMPEROR ZOKOKU, YOUR HIGHNESS, SOMETHING OUTSIDE IS AWFULLY NOISY, ISN'T IT?
Mmph, PROBABLY MY MOTHER OR GRANDMOTHER FOOLING AROUND WITH PSYCHO-SWORDS AGAIN..

PSST!
YOUR HIGHNESS!
HMPH! WHY DOES EVERYONE ALWAYS SAY THE SAME THING?
I BEG YOU, KIND MAJESTY, RESCIND THE ORDER TO EXTERMINATE THE FUZE CLAN AND TENDA! NAGA RITUALS!
(THE EMPEROR'S TALKING TO HIS SOUP BOWL!)
(LAST TIME IT WAS HIS PLATE!!)
OOOO! THERE YOU ARE!
HOW VERY CLEVER!
FORGIVE ME FOR THE RUDE INTERRUPTION, YOUR HIGHNESS, BUT IT'S AN EMERGENCY!
DID I ISSUE THAT ORDER? COME TO THINK OF IT, HAVEN'T WE MET SOMEWHERE BEFORE?
I'M SESKA, ACTING HEAD OF THE FUZE CLAN, YOUR MAJESTY!
AH! NOW I REMEMBER! WE MET AT THE COURT SWIMFEST LAST YEAR!
PLEASE, MAJESTY-- THIS IS SERIOUS!
THE COMMON PEOPLE ARE SUFFERING, MAJESTY, BECAUSE OF A CERTAIN BERSERK PSYCHO-FORCE WITH YOUR LEAVE, SIRE, IF YOU GIVE ME THE SIGN, I CAN EASILY RESTRAIN IT...
WHY, OF COURSE, M'DEAR WHAT SORT OF SIGN..?
WHY NOT JUST TOUCH THE SOUP, HIGHNESS?

SO FAR
SO GOOD...
I DID IT!
I DID IT!
NYA HA HA HA! EVERYTHING'S GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN!
OKAY, GUARDS! TAKE ME TO THE ALTAR FOR THE NINE-HEADED NAGA!
ON THE DOUBLE!!
...WE'VE CONTACTED THE EIGHTH ELEMENT SECTION OF THE WEAVERY...
WHAT ABOUT THE NINTH ELEMENT?
THIS ALTAR ALSO SERVES THE NINTH ELEMENT...

Hmm... I WONDER HOW MUCH OF THIS THING HAS ALREADY BEEN PROGRAMMED?
I, ahh, IM JUST AN IGNORANT GUARD, MA'AM
HMPH!
WHOO WHOO
COME, DREAMS OF THE HEART! COME, DREAMS OF THE MIND! MATERIALIZE, O NAGAS! O LURIEH! TOUCH US WITH YOUR POWER!
OM MAN! PADME HUM NAGA-REACTOR... OMMM MATERIALIZE!
YE GODS! IS SOMEONE TAMPERING WITH THE DHARMA CIRCLE? COULD IT BE THAT IDIOT GIRL? MAYBE SUSANO REALLY WAS THE DECOY!!
FWWIPP
OK
FORGET IT, FUZE! WE'VE GOTTA RETURN TO THE WEAVERY!

OUT OF THE WAY, SCUMBAG!
WHIP
BUT SIRE, HOW CAN YOU DO ANY-THING ...?
I'LL POSE AS THE PRINCESS HAVING THE SAME HARMONICS WILL CONFUSE THINGS AND CREATE AN OPENING FOR ME!
RMB
RRMMMBB
RMB
Hmph... THESE VAJRA NAGA-RITUALS HAVE A LOT OF DIFFICULT FEEDBACK INCANTA-TIONS. SHOULD WORK, THOUGH ...
UH OH.
WHOOOOOSH

VOOMP
WHRASHHH
THE EIGHT WIZARDS FROM HELL, AT YOUR SERVICE!
YOU IDIOT!
WHY DID YOU SUMMON EIGHT VAJRA ARHATS ?!
Er.

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU, HEBIME!
BEHOLD THE SIGN OF THE EMPEROR! I'M AN ADVISOR TO THE IMPERIAL COURT NOW! CALL ME "IDIOT" ONE MORE TIME AND I'LL RIP YOUR TONGUE OUT!
OOH!
OH, NO!
I WAS TRYING TO USE THE DHARMAQUATION TO SUMMON FORCES THAT COULD CONTAIN ANYONE WHO ATTACKED...
AND SO I WOUND UP WITH EIGHT VAJRA ARHATS!
I'VE GOT SOME BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF, HEBIME. SO TILL I COME BACK, I WANT YOU TO USE THE VAJRA ARHATS TO STOP SUSANO!
WE CAN ACTIVATE THE NINE-HEADED NAGA LATER! UNDER-STAND?!
I'VE GOTTA DO THIS TO GET CLOSE TO MAJOR RONNEL. I'VE GOTTA SUCCEED!
DADDY MAY BE IN HELL RIGHT NOW, BUT I'LL MAKE HIM PROUD I, SESKA, AM GOING TO RESTORE THE GLORY OF THE CLAN AND SAVE THE YAMATA EMPIRE!
TO BE CONTINUED...